

ORPHEUS

By

CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD RITTER von GLUCK

OPERA IN ENGLISH

Sponsored by the

WOMEN'S MUSICAL CLUB
OF TORONTO

in co-operation with the

OPERA AND CONCERT COMMITTEE

of the

ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC OF TORONTO



EATON AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, at 2.30 p.m.

WOMEN'S MUSICAL CLUB OF TORONTO

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Because of the great interest in opera performed by our own Canadian artists, the Women's Musical Club of Toronto has made this production open to the public.

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SYNOPSIS

ACT I.

The Tomb of Euridice

Surrounded by his friends, Orpheus, unrivalled musician of antiquity, mourns the death of his wife, Euridice. With impassioned song, he implores permission from the Gods to enter Hades — the abode of the dead — there to seek her and bring her back to earth. Amor, God of Love, then appears to tell Orpheus that his pleading has not been in vain. Though remaining alive, he will be allowed to descend into the abode of the dead and bring back Euridice. There is one condition, however. He must not look at her until they are safe on earth. Should he do so, he will lose her for ever.

ACT II.

The Underworld

The news that a mortal is to come amongst them is not received with pleasure by the Underworld and, at the sound of Orpheus' harp, the Furies commence a dance of violent protest. But Orpheus, with his sorrowful words of pleading, calms even these Furies of Hades and they open for him a path to his beloved Euridice.

ACT III.

Scene 1—The Elysian Fields

The curtain opens upon a scene of quiet beauty where, in the Elysian Fields, the Spirits of the Blest are dancing and singing. Among them is Euridice and, when Orpheus ascends from the Underworld, she is led toward him.

Scene 2—The Path to the Upper World

Remembering the warning given by the Gods, Orpheus avoids looking upon his wife, but Euridice cannot understand this. She decides that he does not love her any more and that he is unfaithful. Her only wish now is to return to the Underworld, but Orpheus cannot bear this ordeal and he turns to look at her. The will of the Gods must be carried out, and Euridice dies instantly. In despair, Orpheus would kill himself but Amor appears again to tell him that, because of his faithfulness, the Gods have forgiven his weakness. Amor awakens Euridice and she and Orpheus are led with joyful song back to the Upper World, united in their happiness.

ORPHEUS

CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD von GLUCK

Presented by

THE OPERA SCHOOL OF THE
ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC OF TORONTO

Stage Director: Felix Brentano Conductor: Nicholas Goldschmidt
Choreography: Herman Geiger-Torel Costumes: Stewart Bagnani

THE CAST

(In order of appearance)

ORPHEUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	Louise Roy
AMOR	-	-	-	-	-	-	Beth Corrigan
EURIDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mary Morrison

CHORUS ON STAGE

Diana Aylwin, Joan Bignell, Rosemary Lacy, Malca Laskin,
Margaret Olmstead, Pat Snell, Joan Southern.
Peter Bourke, Bertrand Rawlyk, Harry Stitch, Harry Tulk.

BALLET

Marguerite Gignac, Shirley Greenwood, Marjorie Hays, Carol Hill,
Virginia Lippert, Annabel Lister, Ana Meno, Audrey Mitchell,
Joan McMaster, Katy Reid, Shirley Smith, Diana Thomson.

The Chorus off-stage and the Orchestra
are composed of Conservatory students.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Choreographer and Solo Dancer: Eileen Weldon Parsons
Stage Manager: Joan McMaster
Assistant Conductors: George Crum and Victor Feldbrill

The co-operation of the Drama Department, Royal Conservatory of
Music of Toronto, and the Ontario College of Art
is gratefully acknowledged.

EATON AUDITORIUM

TRinity 1144

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